measures, reduce input and borrowing costs, take up modernization and technology upgradation projects etc.

Production of Solvent oil

†2999 SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of solvent oil in the country and the quantity sold by the oil companies alongwith the rate and the state-wise allocation during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of solvent imported by the oil companies and the private parties alongwith the prices (CIF value) during the last three years, year-wise, and its source with the rate of import duty; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that solvent oil have become a source of mixing in petrol; if so, the steps taken to discourage the mixing of solvent in petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Solvent Oil is not a controlled product and State-wise allocation is not made. Information about production/import of Solvent Oil and its sales during the last 3 years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Solvents could be used for the adulteration of petrol. In order to prevent the misuse of solvents for adulteration of petrol and diesel, Govt. have issued the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000. In case a retail outlet dealer is found to be indulging in adulteration of petrol and diesel with solvents, action is taken against such retail outlet dealer under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.